

53. The method of Claim 52, wherein the group comprised of mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect connectors defined by a mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect specification further includes:

a type 1 mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect connector, a type 2 mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect connector, and a type 3 mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect connector.

REMARKS

Applicants have carefully reviewed this application in light of the Office Action mailed November 20, 2002. Claims 1-53 are pending in this application. Claims 1-53 are rejected. Applicants have cancelled Claims 40 and 49 without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 40 and 49 have been cancelled and Claims 1, 10, 13, 27, 39, 41, 45, 48, and 50 have been amended to further define various features of Applicants' invention. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1-4, 6-18, 20-30, and 32-53 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over "Mini PCI Specification" (hereinafter "Specification") in view of U.S. Patent 5,737,582 issued to Tomoya Fukuzumi (hereinafter "Fukuzumi"). Applicants respectfully traverse and submit Claims 1-4, 6-18, 20-30, and 32-39, 41-48, and 50-53, as amended, are patentable over Specification and Fukuzumi.

Fukuzumi discloses "an IC card and an IC card system that enable a variety of functions to be added to the IC card" vis-a-vis individual key cards. The individual key cards are "detachable from the main body of an IC card" such that addition of a different individual key card changes the function of the IC card.

Applicants' amended Claim 1 calls for various features including "a modular bay enclosure operable to provide an interconnect for a mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect card to a computer system."

Applicants' amended Claim 13 recites a computer system comprising, among other features, "a modular bay enclosure containing said mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect

connector, the modular bay enclosure operable to provide a housing for connecting the mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect card to the computer system.”

Applicants’ amended Claim 27 recites a method including “installing a mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect connector into a modular bay enclosure such that the modular bay enclosure operable to electrically couple the mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect connector to a computer system via an input/output bus.”

Applicants’ amended Claim 39 calls for various features including “a modular bay having a removable-card connector, the modular bay operable to provide a housing for a mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect card.”

Applicants’ amended Claim 48 recites a method including “installing a removable-card connector in a modular bay such that the removable-card connector is electrically coupled to a computer system.”

Neither Specification nor Fukuzumi make obvious Claims 1-4, 6-18, 20-30, and 32-39, 41-48, and 50-53, as amended, of Applicants’ invention because Specification nor Fukuzumi fails to teach disclose, or suggest all of the elements recited in Claims 1-4, 6-18, 20-30, and 32-39, 41-48, and 50-53, as amended. For example, the cited references fail to disclose “a modular bay enclosure operable to provide an interconnect for a mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect card to a computer system” as recited in amended Claim 1. As recited in amended Claim 13, Specification or Fukuzumi fails to disclose, suggest, or teach an “a modular bay enclosure containing said mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect connector, the modular bay enclosure operable to provide a housing for connecting the mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect card to the computer system.” As recited in amended Claim 27, Specification or Fukuzumi fails to disclose, suggest, or teach “installing a mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect connector into a modular bay enclosure such that the modular bay enclosure operable to electrically couple the mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect connector to a computer system via an input/output bus.” As recited in amended Claim 39, Specification or Fukuzumi fails to disclose, suggest, or teach an “a modular bay having a removable-card connector, the modular bay operable to provide a housing for a mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect card.” As recited in amended Claim 48, Specification or Fukuzumi fails to disclose, suggest, or teach “installing a removable-card connector in a modular bay such that the removable-card connector is electrically coupled to

a computer system.” Applicants therefore respectfully requests the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection to and allow Claims 1, 13, 27, 39, and 48, as amended.

Claims 2 – 4 and 6 – 12 depend from and provide further patentable limitations to amended Claim 1. Claims 14 – 18 and 20 – 26 depend from and provide further patentable limitations to amended Claim 13. Claims 28 - 30 and 32 – 38 depend from and provide further patentable limitations to amended Claim 27. Claims 41 - 47 depend from and provide further patentable limitations to amended Claim 39. Claims 50 - 53 depend from and provide further patentable limitations to amended Claim 48. Because 1, 13, 27, 39, and 48, as amended, are deemed allowable, Claims 2 – 4, 6 – 12, 14 – 18, 20 – 26, 28 – 30, 32 – 38, 41 – 47 and 50 - 53 are allowable. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reexamine, reconsider, withdraw the rejection to and allow Claims 1-4, 6-18, 20-30, and 32-39, 41-48, and 50-53, as amended.

Claims 5, 19, and 31 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Specification in view of Fukuzumi, and further in view of U.S. Patent 6,067,583 issued to Timothy G. Gilbert (hereinafter “Gilbert”). Applicants respectfully traverse and submit that claims 5, 19, and 31 are patentable over Specification, Fukuzumi and Gilbert.

Claim 5 depends from and provides further patentable limitations to amended Claim 1. Claim 19 depends from and provides further patentable limitations to amended Claim 13. Claim 31 depends from and provides further patentable limitations to amended Claim 27. Because 1, 13, and 27, as amended, are deemed allowable, Claims 5, 19, and 31 are allowable. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reexamine, reconsider, withdraw the rejection to and allow Claims 5, 19 and 31.

CONCLUSION

Applicants have now made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejections and allowance of Claims 1-39, 41-48, and 50-53, as amended.

Applicants believe no fees are due; however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0383 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel Claims 40 and 49 and amend Claims 1, 10, 13, 27, 39, 41, 45, 48, and 50 as follows:

1. (Amended) A system comprising:

[a mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect connector; and]

a modular bay enclosure [containing said mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect connector]operable to provide an interconnect for a mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect card to a computer system; and

a mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect connector electrically mounted to the modular bay enclosure, the mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect operable to allow a user to removably attach the mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect card to interconnect with the computer system.

10. (Amended) The system of Claim 1, further comprising:

[at least one]the mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect card electrically coupled to the mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect Interface connector.

13. (Amended) A computer system comprising:

a mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect connector operable to receive a mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect card;

a modular bay enclosure containing said mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect connector, the modular bay enclosure operable to provide a housing for connecting the mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect card to the computer system;

an operating system;

a processing unit;

a first bridge;

a system memory; and

an input-output bus.

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27. (Amended) A method comprising:

installing a mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect connector into a modular bay enclosure such that the modular bay enclosure operable to electrically couple the mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect connector to a computer system via an input/output bus; and

attaching a mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect card to the mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect connector to allow a user to access the mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect card via the computer system.

39. (Amended) A system comprising:

a modular bay having a removable-card connector, the modular bay operable to provide a housing for a mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect card; and
a removable card electrically coupled to the mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect card.

Please cancel Claim 40 without prejudice or disclaimer.

41. (Amended) The system of Claim [40]39 wherein the removable card further includes:

at least one mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect card selected from a group comprised of mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect cards defined by a mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect specification.

45. (Amended) The system of Claim [40]39 further comprising: an operating system;

a processing unit;
a first bridge;
a system memory; and
an input-output bus.

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48. (Amended) A method comprising:

installing a removable-card connector ~~[into]~~in a modular bay such that the removable-card connector is electrically coupled to a computer system; and
installing a removable card into the modular bay, such that the removable card is electrically coupled to the removable-card connector.

Please cancel Claim 49 without prejudice or disclaimer.

50. (Amended) The method of Claim ~~[49]~~48 wherein said installing a removable card into the modular bay further includes:

installing, in the modular bay, at least one mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect card selected from a group comprised of mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect cards defined by a mini-Peripheral Component Interconnect specification.